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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,740	09/08/2003	John C. Salerno	01794/100H406-US1	8852
7278	7590	11/01/2004	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			DESAI, ANAND U	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1653		

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/657,740	SALERNO ET AL.
	Examiner Anand U Desai, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/04/2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 12-17, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid encoding the truncated α -crystallin polypeptide in the reply filed on September 14, 2004 is acknowledged. Claims 1-11, and 18-41 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on September 14, 2004. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e). The priority date is September 6, 2002.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on June 4, 2004 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claims 12-15 are dependent on withdrawn claims 1, and 4.

7. In claims 14-17, it is not clear what a “stringent conditions” defines, is it a low, moderate, or high stringency condition as defined on page 24 of the specification?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamei et al. (Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 231: 373-378 (1997)). Kamei et al. discloses the isolation and sequencing of N-terminal truncated human α -crystallin

polypeptides. The α -crystallin polypeptides are purified from human lens tissue. The α -crystallin polypeptides had from 1 to 6 amino acids truncated from the N-terminal of α A- or α B-crystallin polypeptides. The polypeptides are inherently encoded by nucleic acid sequences (see Results sections, Loss of amino acid residues from the N-terminal region of α A-crystallin and α B-crystallin, pp. 375-377, and Figure 6, current application, claims 12, 14, and 16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. Claims 12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andley et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry 217(50): 31973-31980 (1996)) in view of Kamei et al. (Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 231: 373-378 (1997)). Andley et al. disclose the cloning, expression, and chaperone-like activity of human α A-crystallin. Andley

et al. disclose a nucleic acid sequence that can encode an α -crystallin polypeptide, and that can hybridize to the complement of a nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide. The nucleic acid can hybridize to the complement of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 (see Figure 5). Andley et al. does not disclose a specific truncated α -crystallin polypeptide.

Kamei et al. discloses the isolation and sequencing of N-terminal truncated human α -crystallin polypeptides. The α -crystallin polypeptides are purified from human lens tissue. The α -crystallin polypeptides had from 1 to 6 amino acids truncated from the N-terminal of α A- or α B -crystallin polypeptides (see Results sections, Loss of amino acid residues from the N-terminal region of α A-crystallin and α B-crystallin, pp. 375-377, and Figure 6).

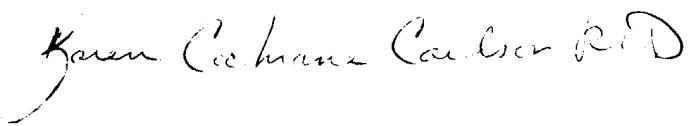
Therefore, the nucleic acid sequence disclosed by Andley et al. that encodes the human α A-crystallin describes the nucleic acid sequence that encodes a truncated α -crystallin polypeptide disclosed in Kamei et al. The nucleic acid can hybridize to the complement of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 (current application, claims 12, 14, and 16).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand U Desai, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0947. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jon P. Weber can be reached on (517) 272-0925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 25, 2004



KAREN COCHRANE CARLSON, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER